



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Water Department

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Handbook for a Fire-Smart San Diego

By Dan Carney, Landscape Architect, City of San Diego Water Department

SAN DIEGO – Renowned wildland resource scientist and author, Klaus W.H. Radtke, Ph.D., will sign free copies of the handbook *A Homeowner's Guide to Fire & Watershed Management at the Chaparral/Urban Interface*, as part of the San Diego Natural History Museum's grand opening of the "*Earth, Wind and Wildfire*" exhibit on Oct. 16, 2004. Dr. Radtke will be available to meet with visitors and sign handbooks from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Through its partnership with the San Diego Fire Recovery Network, the City of San Diego Water Department worked with Dr. Radtke to update and reprint this useful handbook, which is available free to the public in remembrance of Firestorm 2003. The guide provides Southern California homeowners with tips on creating fire-smart landscapes and home environments, while at the same time helping to conserve water.

"We are all appreciative that this handbook can be made available to the community at a time when the awareness of fires is high," said Dr. Radtke. "I am positive that people can apply many of the practical guidelines presented to their home design, landscaping, and maintenance in order to live more safely and enjoyably in California's wildland/urban interface areas."

"We're pleased to provide the community with a free resource that pulls together various tips on building fire-safe and water-efficient landscapes into a practical user's guide," said Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager for the City of San Diego Water Department, Water Conservation Program.

Community members are invited to attend the event to pick up their free, signed copy of the handbook and to also attend the "*Earth, Wind and Wildfire*" exhibit, which will be open through October 2005. This interactive exhibit is designed to raise awareness of the history and inevitability of fire in Southern California's arid and diverse wildlands, and to help teach San Diegans how to better protect themselves from fires.

The San Diego Natural History Museum is located in Balboa Park at the intersection of Village Place and Park Blvd. Open daily for discovery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more museum or event information, visit www.sdnhm.org or call 619.232.3821.

A downloadable version of the handbook will soon be accessible through the City's website at: www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619.515.3500.